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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Geographic Research

DATE: 10 June 1958

FROM : Acting Chief, Geography Division

SUBJECT: NIE's

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1. In accordance with your request and [REDACTED] I have looked over the terms of reference of NIE 11-4-58 dated 19 May 1958. I feel handicapped in making suggestions for possible D/GG contributions to this NIE because of my lack of detailed knowledge on the USSR. However, for what they are worth, I am making some general observations on this and other NIE's.

2. As I see it, the production of an NIE on the Soviet Union involves an operation by specialists in several fields who have been working on this same country -- the primary intelligence target -- for quite a long time. For a newcomer such as D/GG the competition is going to be rather stiff unless we are able to furnish detailed answers to specific questions as a result of past work. General comments on broad topics are probably not wanted, since NIE producers and consumers are probably already familiar with such comments -- unless, of course, the general comments take an entirely fresh approach.

3. I think the observations in paragraph 2 might well apply also for NIE's on the European Satellites and most Western European and Western Hemisphere countries. For Africa, and to a lesser extent Asia, the terms of reference might call directly for a considerable amount of geographic information, since these are "pioneer" areas from the intelligence standpoint and less well known to the community. I am basing this statement on TR's that I have seen during the past week. Further examination of TR's might show me that I am all wet.

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4. In discussing the problem with [REDACTED] we agreed that in view of the past work in the agriculture of the USSR done by GG/S it might be that they could furnish some detailed answers to the questions in section II. C., Developments in Agriculture. They might also be able to contribute to section II. B., Development in Industry. These are possibilities. GG/S may wish to consider other items of the outline under which it could provide detailed answers.

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5. Perhaps GG/S could consider an answer to the question in IV. A. dealing with Soviet view of the advantages and disadvantages of the USSR's geographic position. However, they would want to have a good idea as to what had been said on the subject in the past if they were to contribute a fresh approach. Discussion of this topic could easily drift into generalities.



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